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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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April 13, 2001

**Contact:** Richard Drake, lecture series organizer, 251-5618.

### **UM VISITING POET GIVES FINAL LECTURE IN PRESTIGIOUS ANNUAL SERIES MISSOULA –**

Robert Pack, a popular University of Montana visiting professor and well-known poet, will give the final installment of the 2000-2001 President's Lecture Series Monday evening.

Pack replaces Denis Donoghue, an expert on literature and poetry and former English and American Letters professor at New York University, who canceled his scheduled UM lecture because of a health emergency.

The author of nearly 20 collections of poems, Pack moved to Montana in 1998 after retiring from a distinguished career as an English professor at Middlebury College in Vermont. Nature and wildlife near his Condon home now inspire him in his work.

"His students think that he is next to God," said UM English Professor Bruce Bigley, based on teaching evaluations he's received about Pack.

Pack will discuss his passion for poet Robert Frost's work during a Monday afternoon seminar and an evening lecture. "The Poetry of Robert Frost" will be presented from 3:10 to 4:30 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building Room 122. During the 8 p.m. lecture in the University Theatre, Pack will talk about "Robert Frost: The Poet of Indoor and Outdoor Schooling."

Both events are free and open to the public. As the Lucile E. Speer Memorial Lecture, the evening event honors the former documents librarian who retired in 1968 after 40 years at UM. Speer was a delegate to the 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention and was awarded an



honorary doctorate of humane letters from the University in 1977. She died in 1987.

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